

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Raffaele A. DeMarco on December 5, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7, line 1, "to connect" have been replaced with --connecting--.

Claims 10-19 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9 are allowed.

As to claim 7, lines 25-29, the closest prior art Roiser (Pub. US 2006/02024322 A1) discloses the claimed connecting device with the exception of a line connecting between said first bridge member and said second bridge member is not in right angles to said contact face from a side view; a dividing force is generated by the drawing force to slide a contact face and an end face; an outer peripheral face of said inner member and an inner peripheral face of said second member contact closely with the sliding force; and a position of said first member and said second member is determined.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector device as disclosed by Roiser (Pub. US 2006/02024322 A1) to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
December 5, 2008

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679